

PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SOLICITATION FOR ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

I-91/Knowledge Corridor Passenger Rail Study

The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTa) and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) are seeking Engineering and Planning Services for the I-91/Knowledge Corridor Passenger Rail Study

The Passenger Rail Feasibility Study will consider options for providing improved passenger rail in the "Knowledge Corridor". This corridor encompassing Interstate 91 along the Connecticut River, it is known as the Knowledge Corridor due to the high concentration of colleges, universities and medical institutions that are located along its length. This corridor provides an important cultural and economic engine in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire. This corridor also serves as the transportation backbone of Western Massachusetts.

This project will build on the existing planning efforts conducted by the Connecticut Department of Transportation between New Haven – Hartford - Springfield and determine the feasibility of the implementation of commuter rail service to Springfield. The study will primarily assess the feasibility of rail passenger service between Springfield, MA and White River Junction, VT. However due to the interrelated nature of the corridor, elements of the study will focus on the entire 186 mile corridor from New Haven to White River Junction.

It is expected that the study will provide a long term phased implementation strategy for regional/commuter passenger rail service in this corridor. Firms are expected to provide the services to complete the following tasks: assessment of the existing rights-of-way conditions; the development of rehabilitation cost estimates; the creation of proposed corridor service alternatives and ridership models which take advantage of journey to work, regional trips, and travel associated with the numerous academic institutions, tourism and existing Amtrak service; the development of a preliminary operating plan; recommendations for the management and governance of development and operations of passenger rail service in this unique four-state multi-jurisdictional corridor; and conduct economic impact analysis of the plan. Firms will also be expected to assist in the coordination of required activities with all state and federal agencies as well as rail carriers associated with this project.

Firms having capabilities for this work are invited to submit five (6) copies of a Letter of Interest to Sandra Sheehan, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, 2808 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107, no later than 2:30 p.m. on September 1, 2006. Questions on this request may be made to Tim Doherty by email timdoherty@pvpc.org or by phone to 413.781.6045

Firms responding to this invitation will be considered for selection, providing their responses include five (6) copies each of a current Architect-Engineer and Related Services Questionnaire (SF-330), Part 2 and Architect-Engineer and Related Services Questionnaire for Specific Project (SF-330), Part 1, and all firms Affirmative Action Plan and Employee Profile. Also, to be considered for selection, all firms must submit current Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBE's) Certification letters, as well as the firms' commitment to the utilization of DBE's in joint venture or as a sub-consultants so that the Authority's goals for sub-consultant DBE (8%) participation is achieved. Any firm submitting a Letter of Interest, must identify and attach a current (SF-330) as part of their submittal for all proposed sub-consultants. DBE Prime participation cannot be applied to the Sub-consultant goal of 8%, unless utilized in a joint venture.

Consideration for selection shall be based upon proposed staffing, organization, planning ability, and specific task related experience for similar projects. Joint Ventures will be considered. However, the Authority expects one firm to maintain the lead in terms of contact with the Authority on the project. All capable firms are invited to submit letters of interest in accordance with the instructions presented in this solicitation. Following an initial evaluation of the qualifications and performance data, three or more firms considered to be highly qualified to provide the required services, will be selected to receive the Request for Proposal and prepare for oral interviews.

This is not a Request for Proposal.